

# BUGGING DEVICES START RADIATION ALERT AT EMBASSY

By JOHN MILLER, Diplomatic Staff

AMERICAN diplomats in Moscow were reported yesterday to have been caught up in a radiation scare—and the source of the danger was sophisticated Soviet bugging equipment.

The news that embassy personnel had been warned of possible radiation dangers from being exposed to K G B listening devices led to a predictable embarrassed silence from American official sources.

The embassy has more than 100 diplomats working and living in a nine-storey building on Moscow's ring road.

It has been a favourite target for bugging since the Cold War got underway in the early late 1940s. Dozens of microphones have been detected and removed and the chosen few can see them in a special museum.

According to the Moscow reports embassy employees were secretly briefed about the possible radiation hazards last Friday and offered the chance to leave Moscow if they were worried.

## Protective shields

It was believed that the radiation levels were not considered to be dangerous but protective shields had been installed.

According to one theory the K G B had been using radiation beams from nearby apartments to pick up bits and pieces about what the embassy was saying about the Russians. But another theory was that the radiation came from Soviet devices whose job was to neutralise the embassy's own anti-bugging operation—a sort of anti-anti-bug.

Whatever the facts, the American Embassy is not saying much. A spokesman said it was an "internal embassy matter."

After all it is a bit embarrassing in the era of détente to suggest that the more things change the more they remain the same.

## INFRA-RED GRILL

AMERICA'S MOSCOW EMBASSY has become a health-hazard area owing to radiation from Russian electronic spying devices installed nearby to pick up speech and presumably also vision. Apparently the Russians, always mindful of the niceties of international etiquette, have kept the radiation below their own danger-level, but it exceeds America's more exacting standards. The cynic might suggest that there is scope here within the co-existential framework offered by "détente" for an East-West conference to establish some accepted standard of diplomat-vulnerability which should not be exceeded. In the meantime the Americans are putting up anti-radiation shields over the windows of their embassy. Unfortunately, a process of escalation is already far advanced, and may continue. The purpose of the new Russian system was to overcome a recently installed American anti-bugging device. Diplomats must now expect to be grilled as well as terrorised.

Another example of the violation of international codes of behaviour was examined yesterday by *The Sunday Telegraph* in an investigation into the system that produced CARLOS, the "Jackal," leader of the terrorist outrage against the O P E C Ministers in Vienna. Like thousands of others he is a product of a network of terrorist training centres under Russian direction in Communist countries—in his case Cuba, Russia, East Germany and the Middle East. For the Vienna coup, in which three people were murdered and the Ministers of the non-Left Arab States were only saved by Austria's surrender, he got congratulations and a special bonus of £1m from O P E C member President GADAFI. This kind of terrorism has now become established as an additional Communist International, operating directly or indirectly against non-Communist Governments. While the training camps pour out their streams of graduate killers, how can open democratic societies protect themselves?

PAB - 85